

Frankford Arsenal, Building 316
Northwest corner of Eakin Street and Treadwell Road
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Philadelphia

HAER No. PA-74Q

HAER
PA.
PHILA.
693-Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Building 316

HAER No. PA-74Q

HAER
PA
316-11A
693-Q-

Location: Northwest corner of Eakin Street and Treadwell Road
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1918

Significance: Constructed as a artillery range, Building 316 is associated with the large-scale expansion of Frankford Arsenal, as the U. S. Army's principal supplier of ammunition during the United States entry into World War I. The building's original use as a roofless firing range is linked to the extensive testing activities conducted at the arsenal.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

August 1988

HISTORY

Building 316 was constructed as a pair of roofless artillery firing ranges in 1918, at a cost of \$96,000. In 1942, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) remodeled the building, constructing a roof, a concrete floor, and a series of test laboratories, at a cost over \$38,000. Most recently, the building was used as a laboratory and test building.

DESCRIPTION

Building 316 is a single-story reinforced concrete and brick building with a concrete foundation. The irregular-plan building measures approximately 64 feet by 339 feet. It has a flat composition roof. The interior is partitioned into a central firing range and flanking test laboratories and controlled environment rooms.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal" (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, (1979).

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

